



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ begins cleanup of hazardous material

BATON ROUGE – Secretary Mike McDaniel has declared an emergency regarding two 1,500-gallon tanks containing a hazardous waste that were illegally dumped Saturday on the I-12 off-ramp near Lacombe, in St. Tammany Parish. The emergency declaration allows the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to begin working on removing the tanks.

Emergency responders from DEQ took samples from liquid that was still in the tanks. These field tests showed the liquid has a high pH level and is highly caustic.

Criminal investigators from DEQ and other agencies are looking for the person who dumped the tanks. Illegally dumping hazardous waste is considered a felony. Because the waste is hazardous and the person who dumped the tanks has yet to be found, DEQ will hire a contractor to remove the tanks and cleanup any soil that is affected by the contents of the tanks.

“When we find the responsible party, they will pick up the cost,” said DEQ Division Administrator Jeffrey Meyers. “We’re having to cleanup this site using taxpayer money, and it’s important that we begin the process of removing the tanks and cleaning up the area. Because someone was bold enough to dump these two large tanks in a highly traveled area, we think we will find the responsible party. Someone had to see something.”

If anyone has information on the illegal dumping activity, they can call the DEQ hotline at 225-342-1234 or the Customer Service Center at 1-866-896-5337.

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